

VZCZCXRO0354
RR RUEHRC
DE RUEHBR #0555/01 0891413

ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 301413Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8522
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 6017
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 4675
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 6813
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 6157
RUEHRC/AMCONSUL RECIFE 6427
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 4101
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 9501
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRASILIA 000555

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [BR](#)
SUBJECT: FIVE NEW MINISTERS SWORN IN; CABINET SHUFFLE
APPEARS FINISHED

REF: A. BRASILIA 457

[B.](#) BRASILIA 501

[¶](#)1. (U) With the March 29 swearing-in of four new ministers and the reassignment of one, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva seems to have completed the overhaul of the cabinet that is to serve him in his second term. Lula created a new cabinet post for the new government spokesman and director of government communications. The appointee for the new ministry, Franklin Martins, participated in the 1969 kidnapping of Charles Elbrick, the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil. A last minute surprise was the transfer of the Labor Minister to the Social Security Ministry, reportedly in order to ensure changes that could not be entrusted to someone from outside the president's Workers Party (PT).

[¶](#)2. (U) Franklin Martins is the new minister for press and communications (not be confused with the Minister of Communications, Helio Costa.) His official title is "Minister-chief of the Secretariat of Social Communication of the Presidency of the Republic." The ministerial level job is a new one, and Martins replaces presidential spokesman Andre Singer. Martins is a nationally known veteran journalist and commentator. He was a member of the M-8 leftist underground group that organized and carried out the kidnapping of Ambassador Charles Elbrick in 1969. Martins has no party affiliation.

[¶](#)3. (U) Miguel Jorge, a businessman formerly with the Santander Group, is the new Minister for Development, Industry and Foreign Trade. He has no party affiliation.

[¶](#)4. (U) Luiz Marinho was transferred from his position as Labor Minister to become the new Minister for Social Security. He is a member of the PT.

[¶](#)5. (U) Carlos Lupi, president of the Democratic Labor Party (PDT) is the new Labor Minister. Earlier press reports had him pegged for the Social Security Ministry, but March 30 reporting says Lula decided to put Marinho in Social Security because a minister from outside the PT might not carry out the reforms Lula wants.

[¶](#)6. (U) Senator Alfredo Nascimento, from Amazonas, is the new Transportation Minister. He belongs to the Party of the Republic (PR). He was previously Transportation Minister from March 2004 to March 2006. As he takes leave from the Senate he is replaced by his alternate, Joao Pedro Goncalves da Costa, of the PT.

¶7. (SBU) In spite of persistent expectations that Defense Minister Waldir Pires would be replaced by former Chamber of Deputies President Aldo Rebelo, it appears the cabinet shuffle has halted, at least for a time.

¶8. (SBU) Lula will next make changes at the top of pari-statals and other state entities, rewarding and coopting members of parties that make up his coalition. Political columnist Denise Rothenburg reported on March 30 that the Presidential Palace has warned the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) leadership that Lula will be watching the PMDB voting record in Congress as he selects the next batch of directors for organizations such as Eletronorte, Eletrobras, Petrobras, and the Caixa Economica Federal (a state-owned savings bank).

¶9. (U) A complete listing of the new cabinet follows below.

Agrarian Development: Guilherme Cassel (PT, incumbent)
Agriculture: Federal Deputy Reinhold Stephanes (PMDB, new, vice Luiz Guedes Pinto). Sworn in on March 23.
Central Bank President: Henrique Meirelles (no party affiliation, incumbent)
Cities: Marcio Fortes (PP, incumbent)
Civil Household: Dilma Rousseff (PT, incumbent)
Communications: Senator Helio Costa (PMDB, incumbent)
Comptroller-General: Jorge Hage (PT, incumbent)
Culture: Gilberto Gil (Green Party - PV, incumbent)
Defense: Waldir Pires (PT, incumbent)
Development, Industry and Trade: Miguel Jorge (no party affiliation, new, vice Luiz Fernando Furlan). Sworn in on March 29.

BRASILIA 00000555 002 OF 002

Education: Fernando Haddad (PT, incumbent)
Environment: Marina Silva (PT, incumbent)
Finance: Guido Mantega (PT, incumbent)
Fisheries: Altemir Gregolin (PT, incumbent)
Foreign Relations: Ambassador Celso Amorim (no party affiliation, incumbent)
Health: Jose Gomes Temporao (PMDB, new, vice Agenor Alvares). Sworn in on March 16.
Institutional Relations: Walfredo dos Mares Guia (PTB, reassigned from Minister of Tourism, vice Tarso Genro.) Sworn in on March 23.
Institutional Security: General Jorge Armando Felix (no party affiliation, incumbent)
Justice: Tarso Genro (PT, reassigned from Minister for Institutional Relations, vice Marcio Thomaz Bastos) Sworn in on March 16.
Labor: Carlos Lupi (PDT, new, vice Luiz Marinho). Sworn on March 29.
Mines and Energy: Silas Rondeau (PMDB, incumbent)
National Integration: Federal Deputy Geddel Vieira Lima (PMDB, new, vice Pedro Brito) Sworn in on March 16.
Planning, Budget and Management: Paulo Bernardo (PT, incumbent)
Racial Equality: Matilde Ribeiro (PT, incumbent)
Science and Technology: Sergio Rezende (Brazilian Socialist Party - PSB, incumbent)
Secretary-General of the Presidency: Luiz Dulci (PT,

SIPDIS
incumbent)
Social Communication: Franklin Martins (new, no party affiliation, vice Andre Singer). Sworn in on March 29.
Social Development: Patrus Ananias (PT, incumbent)
Social Security: Luiz Marinho (PT, reassigned from Minister of Labor, vice Nelson Machado). Sworn in on March 29.
Solicitor-General of the Union: Jose Antonio Dias Toffoli (PT, new, vice Alvaro Ribeiro Costa) Sworn in on March 12.
Sports: Orlando Silva Junior (Communist Party of Brazil - PCdoB, incumbent)
Tourism: Marta Suplicy (PT, new, vice Walfredo dos Mares Guia). Sworn in on March 23.

Transportation: Alfredo Nascimento (PR, new, vice Paulo Sergio Passos). Sworn in on March 29.
Women's Policy: Nilcea Freire (PT, incumbent)

Chicola